

LEE, your departure will create an enormous need in this House to replace the kind of civility, wise balance, and professionalism with which your presence here has always been marked. We send you on your way with every special blessing, and in continuing gratitude for your new work in the cause of humanity. God Bless, LEE, and Godspeed!

DR. AULAKH OF COUNCIL OF  
KHALISTAN NOMINATED FOR  
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, at the recent convention of the Council of Khalistan, the delegates passed a resolution to nominate the Council's President, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, for the Nobel Peace Prize. This is a very well-deserved nomination.

Dr. Aulakh is well known to many of us in Congress for his tireless work to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian rule. He is dedicated to doing so by peaceful means. For eleven years, the Council of Khalistan has led the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan, which declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

The Indian government labels anyone who advocates independence for Khalistan a "terrorist," even when he advocates freedom by peaceful means. Meanwhile, India has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and by human-rights groups. About 50,000 Sikh youth have been abducted, tortured, and murdered by the police, then their bodies have been declared "unidentified" and cremated.

In addition to his work with Congress, Dr. Aulakh has worked with organizations like the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples' Organization, and members of the media. He has worked tirelessly to make the world aware of Indian repression against the Sikhs.

Dr. Aulakh has not just worked to expose the oppression of Sikhs, however. Recently he brought to the attention of the Congress the rapes of four nuns in Madhya Pradesh. He has helped to expose the Indian government's extrajudicial killings of Christians, Muslims, Dalits, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. Wherever in South Asia oppression rears its ugly head, Dr. Aulakh has been there to expose it.

Dr. Aulakh has also worked with Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make sure that the Indian government's efforts to alter Sikh history for their own convenience.

Yassir Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin received a Nobel Peace Prize. If they are qualified, then Dr. Aulakh's efforts make him a good candidate for this prestigious award.

America must support efforts like Dr. Aulakh's and those of other peaceful freedom fighters. We can do this by maintaining the sanctions imposed on India after its nuclear weapons test in place, by cutting off all American aid to India, and by publicly declaring our support for a plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan so that the Sikhs of Khalistan can decide freely

and democratically the issue of independence. We should also support the same right for all other people, notably the people of Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's press release on the recommendation of Dr. Aulakh for the Nobel Prize into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From Council of Khalistan—Press Release, Oct. 14, 1998]

DR. AULAKH RECOMMENDED FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

WASHINGTON, DC—The annual convention of the Council of Khalistan, which was held October 10-11 at the Sikh Cultural Society in Richmond Hill, New York, passed a resolution unanimously recommending Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Peace Prize. The recommendation is based on Dr. Aulakh's tireless work for a *Shantmai Morcha* (peaceful agitation) to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, from Indian rule. Dr. Aulakh's name will be formally submitted to the Nobel Prize committee soon.

The Council of Khalistan is the government *pro tempore* of Khalistan, the independent state declared by the Sikhs on October 7, 1987. It was formed at the time of that declaration and has worked to liberate Khalistan for eleven years. The Council of Khalistan leads the Sikhs' peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan.

Dr. Aulakh is well known for his work with Members of Congress, the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO), the American and international media, and other people and organizations to get information about Indian genocide against the Sikhs out to the world. This genocide has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Tens of thousands are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial, some since 1984. The Council of Khalistan has collected information about more than 150 atrocities in Punjab since the Akali Dal government took power in February 1997.

The Indian government has been altering Sikh history, but Dr. Aulakh's work has gotten the true history of the Sikh Nation preserved in the *Congressional Record*, which the Indian government cannot alter.

The resolution cites Dr. Aulakh's consistent support for peaceful action to combat Indian state terrorism and his explicit rejection of militancy as a means of liberating Khalistan. The Indian government routinely labels anyone who advocates freedom for Khalistan a "terrorist."

In addition to his work for the Sikhs of Khalistan, Dr. Aulakh has worked with Members of the U.S. Congress to expose Indian tyranny against other minorities in India, such as the recent rapes of four nuns by a gang of Hindu nationalists. The Indian government has killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, about 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits ("black untouchables," the aboriginal people of South Asia), and others.

"I am extremely honored that the delegates to this convention saw fit to recommend me for the Nobel Prize," Dr. Aulakh said. "This would be a great honor, not only for me, but also for the oppressed Sikh Nation and the people of Khalistan," he said. "Certainly it would further expose our freedom struggle to the international community."

H.R. 4679, ANTIMICROBIAL REGULATION TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

### HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in support of H.R. 4679. The passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 was intended to improve the quality of services provided by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In this process, the regulatory jurisdiction a class of consumer products known as "antimicrobials" was shifted from the FDA to the EPA. Antimicrobials are chemicals used in food contact applications. The EPA has historically regulated pesticides and does not have the experience needed to regulate antimicrobial products.

Since the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act, pending petitions for antimicrobial food additive petitions have been put on hold at the FDA. Products that will benefit consumers have been denied access to the marketplace.

One such petition that is still waiting for production is a new "slimicide" for papermaking usage. This item had previously received the President's Green Chemistry Challenge Award. It has been identified as a safer chemical than what is on the market today.

The enactment of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) changed the definition of "pesticide chemical" under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). This change had a major and unexpected impact on the regulatory responsibility for approval of specific specialty chemicals in food contact applications.

Antimicrobials are considered a specialty chemical. Prior to the passage of FQPA, these substances were regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. However, with the passage of FQPA, these substances are not termed "pesticide chemical" and were inadvertently switched to the Environmental Protection Agency's jurisdiction.

Since the 1996 passage of FQPA, petitions for antimicrobials are still waiting for approval at the FDA. The FDA has experienced problems with expending resources for a function that they no longer have responsibility for.

The bill amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act which is part of the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act. It is a technical correction. It by no means changes the policy of FQPA, nor does it lessen the Act's environmental safeguards.

This piece of legislation shifts the regulatory jurisdiction for review and approval of petitions for use of antimicrobials in food contact applications. It does not remove or amend pesticide regulations under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Antimicrobials will still be subject to registration under FIFRA and standard FDA review for food additives.

This measure will correct a problem that has impacted many working citizens in my district. However, this bill does not lessen the quality of inspection. No one expected the problems we have encountered with the passage of the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996. However

this bill is a simple solution. I commend Representative TOM BLILEY for his work on this bill.

VIVA SAN MANGO D'ÁQUINO,  
ITALY

**HON. JOSEPH M. McDADE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. McDADE. Mr. Speaker, inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty are the inspiring words of Emma Lazarus:

"Give me you tired, your poor,  
your huddled masses of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me.  
I Lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Nowhere were these stirring words more inspiring than in the town of San Mango D'Áquino, Italy. Though bright in spirit, these citizens suffered the privations of severe economic hardship. They worked hard, raised strong families and helped to make a better world.

But lured by the lamp of liberty and freedom that inspired the world, the citizens of San Mango were also inspired to undertake hazardous, difficult and sometimes fatal ocean voyages to seek a new life in the United States.

I am privileged to represent a number of citizens whose origins are in San Mango and who have built new lives in my Congressional District. In predictable fashion, they have contributed to the growth of our country, its economic prosperity and its liberty just as their ancestors did.

I applaud the people of San Mango, past and present, on both sides of the Atlantic and I extend my gratitude to them for their contributions to the old and new worlds. They have truly generated a better nation and world.

Viva San Mango!

HONORING I. PHILIP SIPSER

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, on November 8, 1998, I. Philip Sipser will be honored with a Lifetime Struggle and Achievement Award by the citizens of Central Brooklyn; however, he is a trailblazing labor relations attorney and a creative negotiator whose work has far-reaching significance for the nation and our entire society.

I. Philip Sipser is the senior partner in the law firm of Sipser, Weinstock, Harper and Dorn, L.L.P. with outstanding credentials and achievements in his profession. He must also be celebrated for his leadership as an advocate for the empowerment of ordinary people and the unheralded strategist for numerous worthwhile social and political causes. Now eighty years old and still searching for worthy candidates to support, he has always labored for no concrete rewards and performed for beyond the call of duty. Beyond his own personal involvement there are also the contributions of his wife, Martha, and their four children: Henry, William, Margaret Liebowitz, and Jane Kaplan.

In the typical Sipser tradition, he recently co-sponsored an exploratory discussion meeting with a possible Year 2000 Presidential candidate. Two decades ago it was Sipser's leadership of the bravehearted Frank Barbaro Campaign for mayor which fostered the alliance with MAJOR OWENS and the Central Brooklyn empowerment leaders. That campaign created the embryonic movement which later mushroomed and cemented the victories of Owens for Congress and Mario Cuomo for Governor. His role as the Campaign Manager of the Paul O'Dwyer for Senate Campaign in 1968 is better known; however, his outreach to minority community leaders of the 80's was a major factor in the impressive Jesse Jackson for President Campaign and the victorious David Dinkins for Mayor Campaign.

Under Sipser's tutelage new bonds were cemented between community empowerment activist and union leaders. For a long time he has been counsel and advisor to Local 420. Local 420, the municipal hospital workers, Jim Butler and his members represent the workers near the bottom of the wage structure who live in Central Brooklyn and other similar communities. Their victories in the fights against layoffs and the privatization of the hospitals could not have been possible without the creative legal maneuvers of I. Philip Sipser.

In addition to the hospital workers, among his clients are the auto workers, iron workers, social workers, film editors, brewery and soft drink workers, museum employees, opera and symphony musicians. Sipser is a member of the New York Bar Association; the American Arbitration Association's Commercial Panel of Arbitrators; past President of the Westchester Chapter of the American Jewish Congress; and past President of the Mental Illness Foundation.

At a time when the ranks of organized labor are shrinking, Sipser has opened a new frontier with the organization of the symphony and opera musicians. The future organization of doctors, scientists and other professionals and technicians has become more likely as a result of these pioneering efforts. In connection with his representation of musicians, Donal Henahan, Music Critic of the New York Times wrote:

Mr. Sipser is a New York labor lawyer who has already earned himself a mention in the history of American music. He is the Moses who has led the symphony and opera musicians of this country to within sight of the promised land of milk and honey, after their years of wandering in the deserts of short seasons, low pay and no vacations.

His story has never been appropriately told in headlines or on the television screen; however, within the ranks of the Caring majority, the unique genius and wide ranging compassion of Phil Sipser is loudly trumpeted and greatly appreciated. Central Brooklyn is proud to salute I. Philip Sipser for his lifetime struggle and achievement.

THE CHILD CARE QUALITY  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Child Care Quality Improvement

Act of 1998. This bill creates Quality Improvement Grants as incentives for states to improve the quality of child care for young children in licensed facilities. Each state can use the Quality Improvement Grants for state and local activities designed to enhance the quality of child care available to its citizens.

In recent decades, the number of working women with children, especially those with children under 6 years of age, has increased dramatically. In 1975, 39 percent of women with children under the age of 6 were in the labor force. By contrast, 65 percent were in the labor force in 1997. Good quality child care is critical for millions of working families.

Currently, there is a patchwork of private arrangements used to care for more than 10 million children. This patchwork includes relatives, neighbors, child care centers, and neighborhood child care homes. Child care centers care for the largest proportion—almost 30 percent—of children with working mothers.

Researchers state clearly that high quality child care has a positive impact on the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of all children. This is particularly true for at-risk families. Researchers and best professional practices have shown that there are identifiable features of child care settings that are associated with high quality care. These include a safe and healthy environment; caregivers who are nurturing and knowledgeable about children's development, and a stable presence in children's lives; and low numbers of children per caregiver to ensure that each child receives personal attention.

Child care shapes the way children think, learn, and behave for the rest of their lives. While quality child care promotes children's healthy developments and early learning, lower quality care can hinder their development and, ultimately, their success in school. When parents can't afford quality care and child care providers can't access help to improve their services, children suffer. Children in lower quality child care have delayed language and reading skills and are more aggressive toward other children.

Yet little public attention is being paid to the quality of child care experiences. Recent studies have found that much of the child care in the United States is poor to mediocre. One study found fully 40 percent of the rooms serving infants in child care centers to be of such poor quality as to jeopardize children's health, safety, or development.

State and local governments are responsible for the oversight of child care providers that operate in their state. Each state establishes its own child care standards, determining the areas that standards will cover and the specific measures against which provider compliance will be determined. Recent work by the General Accounting Office found a clear consensus about which standards appear to be good predictors of high quality child care. These standards focus on caregiver education and training, child-to-staff ratios, group size, and safety and health.